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No Dearth of Leaders In Congress Party - PM

No Dearth of Leadership In Congress Party—P M.

IN the course of a hurricane election tour of West Bengal the Prime Minister asserted that there was no dearth of leadership in the Congress party.

The Congress had in its fold people from all strata of society—peasants and workers, old and young, rich and poor. It was not the monopoly of one person. There were many in it who were more responsible than those in the opposition.

"There are many great leaders in the party but the main question is not whether the party has any leader or not. The real issue is how to lead the country towards progress and development."

Nobody could remain Prime Minister throughout his or her life. But the abuses being hurled against the Prime Minister were lowering the prestige of India in the eyes of the world.

"My fight is not against any individual but for policy and idealism. If I am not elected, I will not be there."

Production in fields has increased, exports had gone up and law and order situation improved. In fact, the country had made rapid strides in almost every walk of life. This had been possible because the people were behind the Congress party and Government. This was not the achievement by any single individual and it represented the collective efforts of the people in this country.

Whenever the people had faced any difficulty, the Congress stood by them and did all that it could to mitigate their sufferings.

"I am sorry the emergency may have caused some difficulty to a few people, but it has done tremendous good to the country as a whole."

Smt. Indira Gandhi described the opposition combination as a "kichuri" with nice flavour and good appearance; but 'kichuri' in politics would not be wholesome and delicious

She said she had come not as a leader but as a "sevika" to solicit the cooperation of the people in establishing socialism and democracy in the country.

On the eradication of rural poverty, the Prime Minister said poverty had not increased from what it was before. But the level of expectation of people was much higher now. She met villagers very often but she thought very much more could be done for them.

* * *

14 Carat Golden Words

AT a Bangalore Press Conference, Mr. Morarji Desai, Janata Party leader tried to justify his Gold Control Order (issued when he was Union Finance Minister)

He said it was not his invention. There was demand for action against the smuggling of Gold. He discussed the issue with the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru during a trip abroad with the latter.

The Prime Minister and other colleagues wanted measures to be tightened. He wanted to go stage by stage and in two or three years the clamour for gold would have ceased. In fact no new ornaments of more than 14 carats were made in the six months after the order was passed. If he had been there for two or three years more, he would have ensured that gold ceased to be an attraction

The Government has provided Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 crores for rehabilitation of goldsmiths. There was then no question of people going out of employment.

Since gold had a very special place in Indian tradition for the past 2000 to 3000 years it was imperative to wean the people away from this temptation

But to this democratic friend of the poor it didn't occur that a good market abroad could have been built for Indian jewels, utilising the rare skill of our goldsmiths instead of throwing them out of employment and arranging for their rehabilitation. It is common knowledge many of them committed suicide for lack of employment.

Moraraji's Promise If Janata Wins

Addressing an election meeting at Madras, Mr. Morarji Desai, Janata Party leader, justified his party's alliance with the DMK

It was not proper for him to say anything on these (corruption charges against DMK Ministry) as a judicial enquiry was on. He would only say that they should never condemn people before they were con-

(Contd. on page 7)

Just Too Much

"A candidate offering himself for elections should have obtained his wealth through fair means." This astounding statement is not new, it was a guideline set by our ancestors nearly 1,000 years ago during the Chola period.

—An English daily from Madras.

It's not unreasonable to
suppose
That a candidate would
have a command of prose,
That such a person should
be a good-looker
And, if female, also be a
food-cooker.
That he or she should be
well behaving
Is something that goes
without saying.
Our congratulations hear-
tiest
Go to the candidate who
is a circus artiste.
Ideally, what we need is
a tight-rope walker
With powerful jaws—a
non-stop talker.
A person who can live a
life luxurious,
If a man, someone not
too uxorious.
Irrespective of whether
male or female,
Someone who's hearty
and altogether hale.
These arent' much to seek,
not rarities.
They just about sum up
all the qualities.
Now you've brought in a
new dimension
And put us in a state of
high tension.
The moment you suggest
they should be honest
They would be gone,
goner, gonest.
Now hear me make the
appropriate sounds.
Dear editor, what you
have said astounds.

V.D.T. in Times of India

For Want of A Typist

The Congress for Democracy was having some difficulty in the release of its election manifesto even after its 50-odd candidates had filed their nominations for the Lok Sabha elections.

The manifesto was scheduled to be released last Saturday when Mr. Jagjivan Ram, chairman of the party, told newsmen that it was not ready because the typist had failed to turn up. He promised that the manifesto would be given to them on the next day.

However, when newsmen turned up at his residence on Sunday they were told by a party functionary that the manifesto was not yet available.

Lesson: For want of a nail, a battle was lost!

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

I have in my life never been guilty of saying things I did not mean—my nature is to go straight to the heart and if often I fail in doing so for the time being, I know that Truth will ultimately make itself heard and felt, as it has often done in my experience.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Feb. 27, 1977

DICTATOR ?

Srimathi Indira Gandhi is reported to have told an election meeting in Orissa : "I have not come to you as Prime Minister but as a sevika (public servant) and a sister in distress who is being encircled only to be stabbed from all sides".

If this is the language of a dictator, the Opposition leaders perhaps don't know, or have forgotten, what dictatorship means. Under dictatorship, the Opposition leaders, especially those spreading disaffection among government servants, policemen and the defence forces, as the Maharashtra Chief Minister has rightly pointed out, "get bullets" instead of detention or liquidated or put in concentration camps and allowed to die.

It is common knowledge that the political detenus here have recieved princely treatment in the so called jails—the top leaders among them costing about Rs. 70/- a day.

The people in this country have not forgotten under what circumstances the emergency was declared and those political delinquents were silenced. There was a call to prevent the Prime Minister from functioning following the opposition success in preventing the elected representatives of Gujarat and Bihar Assemblies from functioning.

Even now, Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan talks of "unwritten law of recall" of elected legislators and the youths of Bihar and Gujarat only "wanted to exercise it". What followed is only recent history. And the Sarvodaya leader talks of democracy and discipline.

People know that "the opposition parties had spread the cult of violence, strike, labour unrest and student indiscipline" which affected the country's progress and prosperity. The declaration of emergency became necessary to remove the impediments to progress.

It is non-sense to talk of dictatorship, when Smt Indira Gandhi has announced elections to the Lok Sabha (even her own party was not prepared for it), released all the detenus, lifted press censorship, suspended emergency and let off people like Subramania Swami, Kedarnath Sahni and Markand Desai, on their arrival after anti-Indian propaganda in many countries—as they themselves shamelessly claim.

If these don't prove the faith of the Prime Minister in democracy and in a free and fair elections, nothing else can. But they can never convince the people.

The Main Issue In A Crucial Election

The Battle Lines have been truly drawn for the crucial elections to the Sixth Lok Sabha, now that the final list of valid nominations to all the 542 seats is known for all practical purposes. The elections are crucial because the outcome will determine whether India, which has survived many threats to its very existence and emerged as a strong nation and is well set to progress on pragmatic lines, will continue to go forward or become a prey to instability, centrifugal and chauvinistic pulls, amateurish economic experimentation and a playground for out-side interference. That is why every-one of the 320 million and more voters should make a special effort, amidst the confusing barrage of charges and countercharges and facile promises of all things to all men, to take note of the high stakes involved and arrive at a dispassionate and wise decision on the kind of government he or she would help install at the Centre.

Such a government has obviously to be a competent government with firm and able leadership to be able to deal with the multitudinous problems of this vast and complex country. It has to ensure order in the face of subversive and anarchist threats, even as it battles with the colossal problem of poverty, disease and illiteracy and seek to provide an increasingly higher standard of life for our 630 million people, threatening to grow into 1,000 millions in the next 25 years. India's long history as well as its present situation make one thing unmistakably clear—that this country, whether under the Mauryas, the Moghuls, the British or under the Congress since Independence, remains strong, united, stable and purposeful in the implementation of worthwhile programmes and is able to stand up to a hostile world, only if and when there is a stoutly led government at the Centre. Once this paramount need is well recognised, all other considerations become subordinate to it and the choice the voter has to make becomes easier.

What distinguishes next month's national election from its five predecessors is the apparent polarisation of political forces and the prospect of virtually straight contests in more constituencies than ever before, with the Congress and its supporters ranged on one side and the Janata Party and its allies on the other. Though all the constituents of the new combination had confronted the Congress in the last elections as the Grand Alliance, raised the same slogan of "democracy in danger" and got routed, it is claimed that this time it is not a mere opportunistic electoral front but a genuine get together promoted to provide a viable alternative to the Congress. We have urged, on several occasions in the past, such a development among the Opposition parties (ever tending to proliferate into further splinter groups, often out of personal pique) in the interests of a sound parliamentary democratic system. But at the moment, the so-called merger of the Congress (O), the Jan Sangh, the BLD and the Socialists into the Janata Party is but a promise for the future, with the constituent parties remaining undissolved and the rank and file of each yet to abjure their conflicting political aims and ideologies and be converted into one entity. How can the people not recall to their mind the number of attempts made during the past seven years to forge a single party out of these heterogeneous groups, that had failed every time because none of them was prepared to lose its separate identity? Nor can it be forgotten how the electoral debacle of the Grand Allance in 1971 actually let loose the most bitter mutual accusations, each constituent blaming the others for the convincing rejection of the Allianee by the people.

That such parties have been able to come together again appears to be not a firmer indication towards a merger but only a measure of their common urge to pull the Congress down whatever the cost. Their avowed intention of ultimate union to become a strong, cohesive political party may be hard to fulfil for another reason. A political party is born out of a few people's fervent faith in an ideology or programme, and then it grows with more and more people coming to believe in its plank and joining it. The Conservative and Labour parties of the U.K. or the Congress and communist parties of India are the result of such evolution. But what is one to make of the four Janata constituents, with their different roots, policies and outlook, trying to form a new party and inventing a programme for it, on the basis of sops thrown into placate each disparate group, and broadcasting it as a viable one though bristling it as a viable one though bristling with contradictions? In the effort to knock up a manifesto with something of each party's pet nostrums, there is the promise of the abolition of the right to property, which has already led to Mr. Madhok, a leading light of the Janata party, quitting it. The Janata manifesto pledges itself to restore the concept of bonus as deferred wage, make fair wage the minimum wage for every farm worker and also increase the income of farmers and at the same time bring down prices of essentials. As the farmer's income is what remains of the sale price of his produce, after

(Contd. on page 7)

Beard, in Protest

The former chief minister of Bihar, Mr. Mahamaya Prasad Sinha, the Janata Party candidate for the Patna parliamentary seat, has taken a pledge not to shave his beard till "dictatorship ends in the country."

Announcing this at an election rally addressed by the Chairman of the Congress for Democracy, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, he said that he had grown the beard in detention during the emergency.

In his brief speech before the two leaders spoke, Mr. Sinha said that it was time to make all possible sacrifices for democratic rights. "Though I am nearing 70, I will keep on figthidg for my rights till I breathe my last."

Thousands of hands went up when Mr. Sinha asked the people to show that they were for democracy.

Voters And Their Responsibilities

By S. P. SRINIVASAN
Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu

Before independence there was limited franchise in our country for elections to the Provincial and Central Assemblies The franchise was related to taxation, property, literacy, community and other factors and was confined to only a small percentage of the population. In Western democracies people had secured universal adult franchise only in the early part of this century and that too only after some struggle. But we adopted the system of universal adult franchise with the attainment of independence and the framing of the Constitution. This was a natural corollary of our freedom struggle in which the masses had taken part irrespective of sex, religion, caste or educational qualification. Adoption of universal adult franchise is an act of faith in the common man of India and in his practical common sense. He has justified this with remarkable success in all the past general elections each of which has contributed to the advancement of the political education of the people, the majority of whom are not litesate.

MUST VOTE

India is considered to be the largest democracy in the world. Democracy represents certain high and noble ideas such as justice, equality of status and opportunity, liberty of thought and expression and fraternity, among citizens irrespective of caste, creed or language. The obvious sign of a modern democracy in any country is the vote which is based on the principle of free choice. A tremendous responsibility therefore lies on every voter to choose by himself and of his own free will the person who is to represent him in the Lok Sabha.

The basic responsibility of the voter is that *he must vote*. He must discharge the constitutional responsibility of indicating who among the candidates he wants to represent him in the governance of the country. The voter must not think that after all his is only one vote and absence of it would make no difference. It is only the total of the such single votes that helps a candidate get elected. Only if *every* voter participates in the election process can we say that there has been a correct choice of the proper person to represent the constituency. To facilitate a large turnout of voters, we are providing as many as 30,000 polling stations all over Tamil Nadu so that, in general, no voter has to travel more than 2 kilometres to exercise his franchise.

In order to exercise his choice intelligently, the voter should listen to the discussions and speeches of various candidates and their leaders. Public meetings are being held all over the country. He may attend them freely in order to understand what principles and policies each candidate stands for. Of course, he may have already made up his mind; in which case he should not attend the meetings of the opposing candidates just to create some disorder therein. All political parties are being requested to ensure that their supporters do not disturb the meetings of the opposing candidates. The uncommitted voter may therefore attend the meetings of all candidates without any fear.

AVOID GIFTS

The voter may have to overcome many blocks in his way before exercising his franchise. Some candidate or his supporters may come forward to offer bribes in cash or kind to the voter. Offer of bribe is a positive insult to the dignity of the voter because he is not a commodity which can be purchased by a man of means. If any one dares indulge in this corrupt practice, the voter should have no hesitation in repelling the suggestion or handing him over to the police.

A subtle form of trying to influence the voter is to offer free conveyance to the pedestrian voters for going to the polling station. This also is a corrupt practice and the temptation should be firmly resisted by the conscientious voter even if he has already made up his mind to vote for that candidate.

Some try to instil fear in the mind of the voter by means of violence, intimidation, coercion or even by invoking divine displeasure on him. In the long run these tactics do not pay and do not deter the voter from voting according to his choice. All possible arrangements are also made for maintaining peace and order in the locality during the elections and for deterring unsocial elements from disrupting peaceful electioneering.

ABSOLUTE SECRET

The voter should resolve to remain firm and straight and refuse to bend before any of the corrupt practices. Only then can the elections be said to be free and fair. All these corrupt practices will have no influence on the voter if he remembers one thing-viz., that there is absolute secrecy about his vote and there are no means by which any one can ordinarily find out how he has voted. He can therefore vote according to his own will and choice without any fear.

Over the years we have evolved various procedures to ensure that the voters choice is absolutely free and that his vote is secret. Now only the voter's serial number and the concerned Electoral Part number are noted in the counterfoil of the ballot paper issued to him. All these counterfoils are put into a sealed packet at the end of the day's poll and the packet can also be sealed by the polling agents present. The sealed packets are later kept in the custody of the District Election Officer i.e., the District Collector. They can be opened only under the orders issued by a court and only in connection with an Election petition. The polling agents of candidates present at the polling station have no chance of knowing the number of the ballot paper issued to a particular voter. These polling agents know only the first and the last serial numbers of the ballot papers issued to the polling station for use. It will not therefore be possible for them to identify a particular ballot paper at the time of counting as one issued to a particular voter.

COUNTING

Moreover, a change has been made in the system of counting votes also. In the past, the votes were counted polling station-wise. It was possible for political parties to know how any particular area attached to one polling station voted. Now the counting will be done in two stages. In the first stage the ballot papers are taken out and counted (for totals of numbers only) polling station-wise and tallied with the ballot paper account. There is no sorting of ballot papers candidate-wise at this stage. The papers are then arranged in bundles of 25 or 50 and all the ballot papers in a counting centre which usually covers one Assembly Constituency area are mixed in a drum. Thereafter 20 or 40 bundles are taken at random and given to one table for sorting candidate-wise. At the end of the counting one could know only how the whole constituency has voted, not how any particular area in it has voted.

SEALING OF BOXES

The question is of asked whether the ballot boxes can be tampered with The procedure laid down for preparation of the ballot box and its storge after poll makes it impossible for any one to tamper with the box without an impossible level of connivance of a large number of officials and political workers of different candidates.

Before the voting starts, the ballot box is shown empty to the polling agents of the contesting candidates present at the polling station. A paper seal on which the Presiding Officer and the Polling Agents have affixed their signatures is used to close the box. Once the slit for putting in ballot papers is closed, the box cannot be opened without tearing the paper seal. This procedure is followed every time a new ballot box is brought into use after the previous box has been filled up by voters.

Party Position

Tamil Nadu Members of Dissolved Lok Sabha as on 18-1-1977

D. M. K.	15
Congress	8
Congress (O)	1
C. P. I.	4
Forward Bloc	1
Muslim League	1
A. I. A. D. M. K.	5
A. D. M. K. (Breakway Group)	1
Independant	1
Vacant *	2

* **Nagerkoil**
Shri Kamaraj Cong (O) died on 2-10-1975

Chinglepattu
V. Chittibabu, DMK, died on 5-1-1977

LOK SABHA ELECTION MARCH '77
TAMIL NADU
ELECTORATE, VOTES POLLED AND PERCENTAGE
1957, 62, 67, & 71

Year	Electorate	Votes Polled	Percentage
1957	1,75,14,993	1,12,88,072	64. 44
1962	1,86,75,436	1,28,43,984	68. 77
1967	2,07,96,846	1,59,22,406	76. 56
1971	2,30,64,985	1,65,33,128	71. 68
* 1977	2,71,53,435	—	—

* As on 5-2-1977.

Vote Without Fear
Your Vote Is Secret

The Ecological Balance

Conservation Of Nature

By ZAFAR FATEHALLY

THOUGH India is a comparatively undeveloped country, and the majority of our 600 million citizens are dreadfully poor, we can change this condition, if not overnight, within a reasonable period because the country is rich in natural resources.

Our prosperity ultimately rests on our renewable natural resources, soil, water, air, flera and fauna. If these are kept in good physical condition, and not over-exploited, we will be able to use them on a sustained yield basis over and over again for the welfare of our people.

We must never allow ourselves to forget that the inter-action of the five resources to which I have referred together with sunlight which is the original source of all energy, have resulted in the creation of our natural world. This development has gone on for several billion years, and it is in our own interest to ensure that the natural process continues and that the system is not disrupted in any way.

Through the discipline of ecology we are now realising the implications of these inter-relationships, and hence if we so plan we conserve nature so that it will always be at our service.

DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

But it is tragic that though our welfare depends on these resources we despoil them day by day. Our forests are being cut down, our soil allowed to be trampled mercilessly by cattle and human feet, and consequently suffer from erosion by wind and water. our lakes and rivers, and jheels and estuaries have become dumping grounds for city refuse and industrial pollutants; air pollution has become a menace in many of our cities.

Why do we allow this to happen? The answer to this question, to put it bluntly, is connected with the basic weaknesses of our character.

One of the problems of human society is that we continue to indulge in practices which we know to be wrong, and against our long-term interest.

We are too averse to change, and refuse to pull ourselves out of the ruts of tradition, and to adjust our life-styles according to the findings of science. We are unwilling to act on the public interest which is after all our own long term interest—if it means putting ourselves even to temporary incovenience.

Let us take an example from one of our most vital requirements. We know full well the value of fresh, clean water. Yet look at the way we treat our ponds in cities and villages alike.

It is a common sight to see motor lorries, for example, being driven along the side of a pond or a tank, and washed when they are standing knee high in the water. Much oil and filth gets into the water in consequence.

WATER POLLUTION

It is known that a single drop of oil may affect the quality of the water seriously over several hectares, and prevent fish and other aquatic life from surviving.

Once these forms of life die, the balance of forces in the water changes, and then it is usually overrun by rank vegetation, and in course of time a beautiful body of water which was such a joy to see and such an asset of the local community becomes a breeding ground of malarious mosquitoes, and demands are made for the reclamation of the land.

When the land is reclaimed not only have the citizens been deprived of much needed fresh water, but during the rains, since a natural receptacle has been eliminated, surplus water floods the surrounding region dislocating the life of the people seriously.

WETLAND CONSERVATION

Incidentally water is much more productive than land. Experiments show that from a hectare of water one can obtain many times more food in the way of fish, prawns and other aquatic animals, than one could get by draining the marsh and growing wheat or any other crop on the same area of land.

In fact in India intensive fish farming can yield as much as Rs. 22,000 annually per hectare. We might take such consolation as we can from the fact that wetlands—the name given to lakes, ponds, marshes and other water bodies by scientists—have been treated very shabbily the world over and recognising their errors there is now a massive wetlands conservation campaign in progress in Europe.

The European Centre for Nature Conservation says: "Of all Europe's natural heritage, its wetlands are undoubtedly among the most vulnerable and the most endangered types of environment."

PROTECTION OF FAUNA

These biotopes, drained over the centuries—indeed, over thousands of years—and polluted in recent decades, are currently undergoing a process of decline and degradation whose implications are far more serious than is usually imagined.

Wetlands are a paradise for anglers and fish-breeders, points of attraction for nature-hungry town-dwellers, naturalists, laboratories, not least among the multifarious functions they perform being that of water flow regulators.

In Great Britain also a special campaign is now on to save a valuable species of wetland, the village pond. A victim of neglect, pollution and vandalism the village pond is fast disappearing.

Over 300 thousand ponds have now been identified within the British Isles, and all these are being energetically cleaned up, by school children among others, and the necessary ecological measures taken for their revival as living systems for the use of humanity.

We in India must restore our wetlands as expeditiously as we can because in our tropical environment our needs for water are much more acute than in Europe. It seems pointless to spend crores of rupees on major irrigation projects, and simultaneously to neglect the god-given assets which can be so easily mobilised for our use.

PROTECTING THE FORESTS

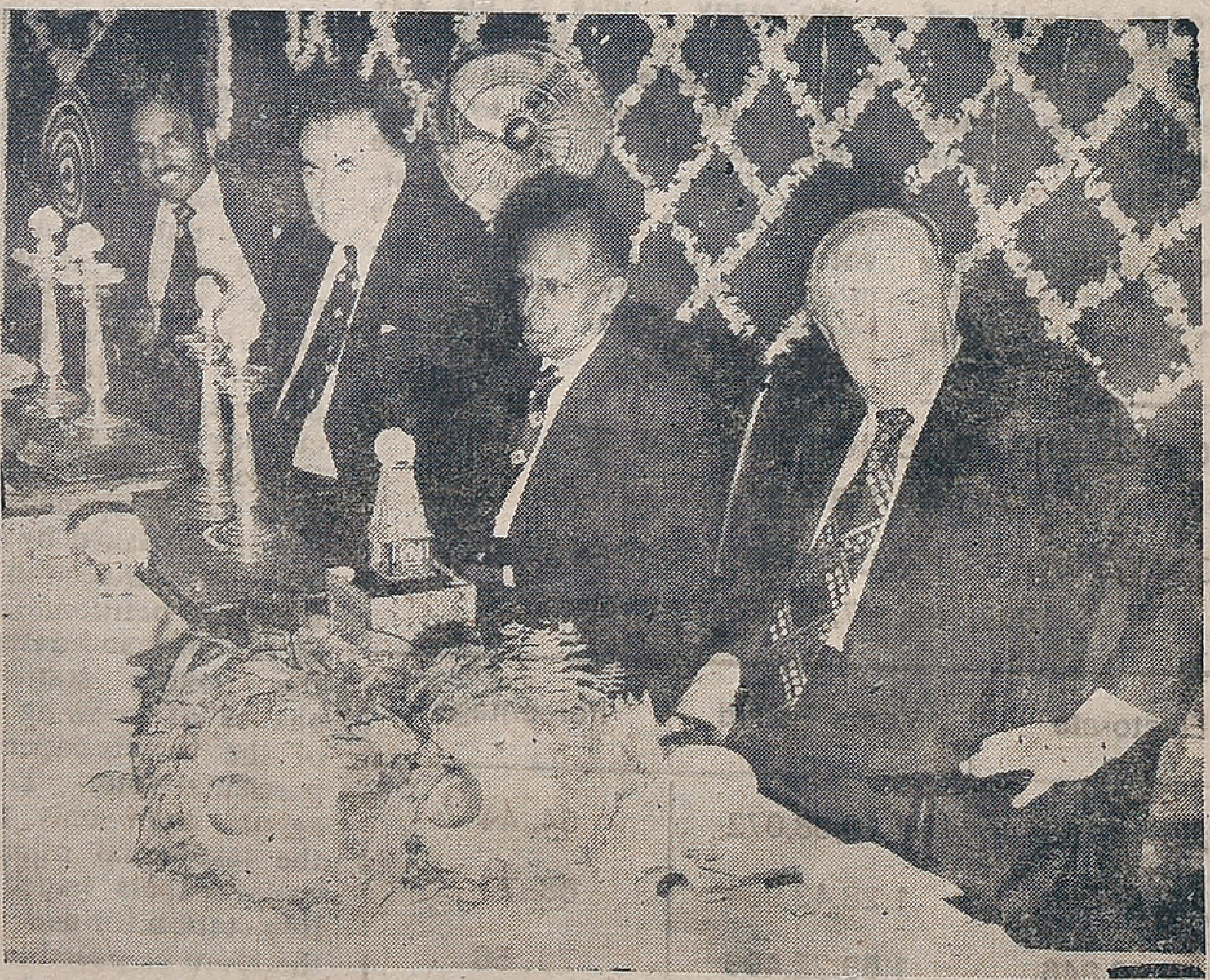
We might now turn to another aspect of nature conservation which is also connected fundamentally with water, and this is the conservation of our forests. we have all come across this slogan some time or the other that 'Trees mean water means life.'

Speaking to the delegates of the All India Congress Committee on the May 30 this year, Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi focussed attention on two areas-Family Planning and Afforestation.

The implications of an unmanageably large population have by now gone home to most people. But the value of forests so vital for humanity is often questioned.

The National Forest Policy enunciated in 1952 says that 33% of our land has to be kept under forest cover. Unfortunately, this has remained a paper dream, and year by year the area

(Contd. on page 4)



The new Rs. 6 crore pharmaceutical plant of the Alkali and Chemical Corporation of India Ltd., a unit of ICI (India) Ltd, was inaugurated recently at Ennore. Madras. Picture shows (L to R) Mr. A. L. Mudaliar, Chairman, ICI (India) Ltd. Sir Rowland Wright, Chairman of ICI, Mr. A. M. M. Arunachalam (who presided) and Mr. Haslam, Personal Director ICI at the function.
—Photo: A. Arumugam.

SERC Helps Solve Rural Storage Problem

It is estimated that nearly 70% of the total foodgrain production in the country is stored by farmers in small quantities in traditional and unscientific storage structures like earthen kuthlas, mud jars etc. Foodgrains stored in these structures are subjected to attack by a number of bioloical agents including insects, birds, rodents and fungi. Losses in these traditional and unscientific storage structures in rural areas are substantial. Considerable addition to national food supply could be obtained by providing improved scientific storage structures where intosses could be minimised to a great extent.

The Prime Minister in her inaugural speech at the Sixty Third Session of the Indian Science Congress held at Waltair on January 3, 1976 observed ' we also need to educate our villagers in the difficult science of pest control.........There must also be greater emphasis on the technology of storage and preservation of produce". The case for harnessing the resources of science and technology to solve this pressing national problem cannot be better stated.

FERROCEMENT BINS

The Structural Engineering Research Centre, Roorkee, undertook a research project to solve the problems of foodgrain storage faced by the farmers. It developed cylindrical grain storage bins of ½ tonne, 2 tonne and 3 tonne capacities using ferrocement as the basic construction material. These ferrocement bins are cast by a simple semi-machanized process developed at the Centre.

These bins are strong, light, durable and are fire, damp, and rodent proof and pose no recurring maintenance problems. Evaluation tests carried out on these bins at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, show that both underground and aboveground bins are quite suitable for storage of grains. These bins provide an ideal solution to storage problems in the rural areas.

ECONOMICAL

From the point of view of long term durability, maintenance, special protection against rodent attack and fire hazards, ferrocement bins are economical compared to other types of bins. The production cost of ½ tonne bin is about Rs. 175 and that of one tonne bin is about Rs. 260. The semimechanized process developed for casting the bin units has been patented and the know-how has been released through the National Research Development Corporation of India (NRDC), New Delhi, for commercial exploitation.

Since ano new storage structure should meet the needs of the farmers efficiently, a sample field survey of the storage practices prevalent in 29 villages covering four development blocks in Roorkee sub-division of Saharanpur district was conducted by the Centre to elicit the response of farmers to the bins developed by the Centre. It was gathered from the survey that none of the farmers was satisfied with the storage structures like earthen kuthlas in use at present in the villages and they would prefer to have improved type of storage structures wherein losses could be minimised. The reaction of farmers towards the bins developed by the Centre was favourable.

WATER TANKS

At present, there are few adequate hygienic water supply schemes in the rural areas. The villagers mostly depend for water supply on wells or ponds. These sources of water are always susceptible to pollution and it is difficult to take preventive measures on a mass scale. The answer to this vital problem is to provide suitable water storage tanks in the rural areas so that hygienic water supply could be ensured. To solve this problem, SERC, Roorkee has recommended the use of ferrocement cylindrical units as water tanks to provide good and hygienic supply of drinking water in the rural areas. These tanks are lighter, cheaper, when compared to steel and reinforced concrete tanks. They require no maintenance.

BIOGAS HOLDERS

Under a research project sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology as part of the All-India Co-ordinated project on biogas plants the SERC has developed optimum designs of biogas plants upto 3 cubic metre capacity with ferrocement biogas holders. These holders are fabricated using the same process as used in manufacturing of ferrocement bins. Savings in the cost of biogas holders upto 50% could be achieved by using ferrocement units in the place of steel gas holders For a 3 cubic metre capacity biogas plant, a saving of 36% in total cost could be effected by using the SERC design for biogas plant in the place of other designs. They need practically no maintenance and have unlimited life.

From Page 4

under forest is being reduced. Illegal cutting and the opening up of forest land for agriculture is the main reason.

Though the difficulties of protecting our forests are obvious, it is equally obvious that our administration has not geared itself for protecting this great national asset with the seriousness it deserves.

The position is similar in most countries of South-East Asia, and Africa and South America where too the cutting down of forests has resulted in the well-known disasters-floods in the rains, and acute shortage of water in the dry months.

A report on the forest situation in the Philippines is worth recording for apart from being reminiscent of conditions in India, it contains a useful description of watershed—a term we hear about frequently in connection with our irrigation and hydro-electric projects.

It says: "Watershed is a renewable natural resource of critical importance." Yet there is often insufficient understanding of the role of watershed, of what it is, and what it does.

Very briefly watershed is usually an area of vegetation covered land which accepts and catches the rainfall during the rainy season, absorbs it rather like a sponge, and releases it during the rest of the year in a relatively even flow of clear water in underground springs, streams and rivers.

COVERING OF VEGETATION NEEDED

To be effective, the watershed must have the protective covering of vegetation which helps to give it the effect of a sponge When that vegetation is cleared, and the soils are bared, as occurs with destructive cultivation the water immediately runs off the bare ground, carrying away the soil and the area is converted from an effective sponge to something more like a tin roof.

During the wet season the rainfall flows rapidly often creating destructive floods which can cause loss of life and property on lands below. No water is absorbed in the wet season, and consequently in the dry season there is no release of water, so that lands and people below suffer drought. We need not of course seek examples or advice from other countries.

As early as 1877 a great famine raged in South In ia, and Sir Richard Temple, sent to aid the Madras Government, wrote: "We cannot but reflect whether the uncertainty of the seasons which often proves so disastrous in Southern India is not becoming worse and worse, whether there may not be some physical cause at work to render the rainfall precarious Beyond the Ghat mountains in Bellary and Kurnool, the treeless shrubless aspect of the country is as wonderful as it s melancholy. These are the very districts where famine is occasionally epidemic, and where scarcity has been almost endemic."

TREE FARMING

Trees are important, of course, not merely for their intangible ecological role. It is apparent that they contribute in many direct ways to the welfare of our people.

In his famous book 'Small is Beautiful' E. F. Shumacher says: "Many people are becoming interested in solar energy...I am sure that they always appreciate the fact that a most marvellous 3-dimensional incredibly efficient, contrivance already exists, more wonderful than anything man can make the tree. Agriculture collects solar energy two-dimensionally silviculture collects it 3-dimensionally. This surely is the wave of the future."

3-dimensional productivity indeed yields impressive results. Apple trees produce 7 tons per acre, bean bearing trees such as the honey locust can provide 15 to 20 tons of cereal equivalent, but we can only get about 2 hundredweight of meat and not more than 1½ tons of grain from the same area of land.

Another factor in favour of tree farming as opposed to raising annual crops is that the nutrients obtained from fruits, nuts, seeds and beans of trees are much superior to those of agricultural crops.

Trees need not come into conflict with agriculture because they can be grown in areas unsuitable for traditional farming. Certain species of trees have roots with can penetrate as much as several hundred feet into the subsoil and rocky substrata in their search for subterranean water. In the process of doing so they raise the entire water table, and so make it possible for conventional agriculture and horticulture to be undertaken in the surrounding environment.

It is because of these superlative qualities of trees that the Buddha enjoined that everyone should plant at least one tree every five years. It has been said that as long as this was observed, the whole large area of India was covered with trees, free of dust, with plenty of water, plenty of shade, plenty of food and all other meterials.

Let us hope that the massive tree planting campaign programme now underway will be entirely successful, and that the radiance of the sun operating on earth's green mantle, will resemblish our landscape to its original glory.

(Courtesy: Akashvani, Delhi)

For The Week 27th, February To 5th, March 1977

MESHA

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to expend your business or start new venture. Partnership arrangements could be finalised. You can expect coop ration from your family members. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

RISHABA

YOU are passing through one the best periods. You should try to improve your prospects. Some of the problems could be solved. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. You should also avoid long journeys for some more time. Partnership arrangements could be finalised favourably. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

MITHUNA

MIXED results are indicated. You should be able to solve some of the problems. But you should wait for some more time to get complete relief. Business prospects will improve. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You should also avoid friction with family members. Health requires attention. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Property matters could be finalised favourably. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Favourable days : 1st & 2nd.

KATAKA

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Some of the problems connected with office or business could be solved. But it will take some more time to get complete relief. You should try to avoid legal complications. You should also take extra care while travelling. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You can not expect much cooperation from family members. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Partnership matters require attention. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

SIMHA

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to solve your major problems. Some complications are indicated in business. You should avoid friction with associates. You should be cautious while travelling. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from family members. Property matters could be finalised. Health requires attention. Favourable days : 1st &2nd.

KANYA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. If you are planning to go abroad you should start preparing now. Partnership arrangements could be finalised favourably. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised. Change of place is indicated for some. Business prospects will improve. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

THULA

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Matters relating to brothers and sisters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Business prospects will improve. Family members will be cooperative. Favourable days : 1st & 2nd.

VRISCHIKA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to expand your business. New ventures could be launched. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Also avoid long journeys unless necessary. You can expect cooperation from family members. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

DHANUS

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Business will improve. Change of place is indicated for some. Matters relating to brothers and sisters will cause moments of anxiety. Avoid friction with family members. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 27th & 28th.

MAKARA

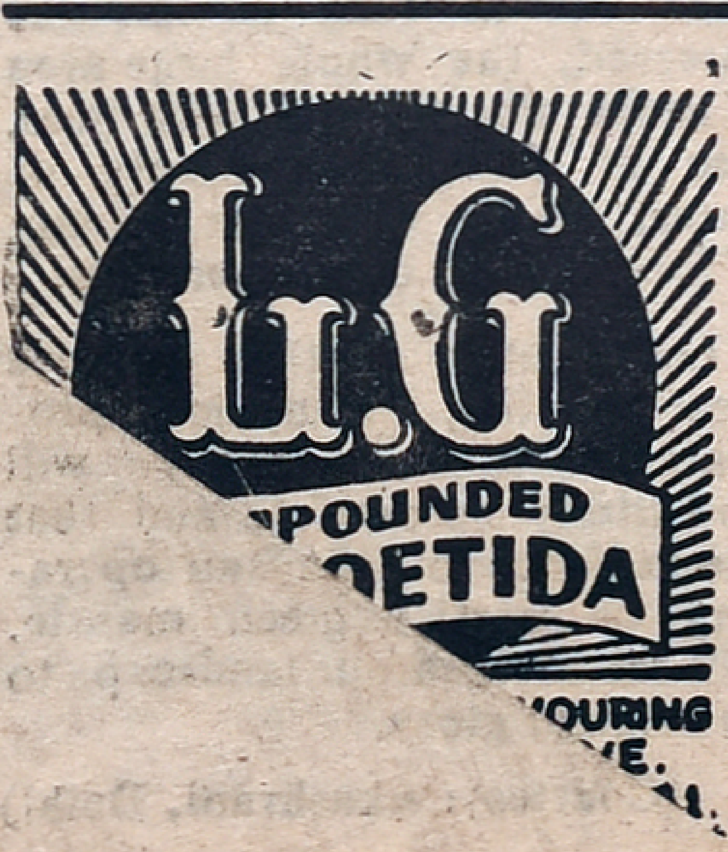
FAVOURABLE period continues. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You can expand your business or try to start new ventures. Financial position will improve after some time. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Avoid friction with family members. Avoid impulsive actions on 1st & 2nd.

KUMBHA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to utilse this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters could be finalised favourably. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Change of place is indicated for some. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 3rd & 4th

MEENA

MIXED results are indicated. Financial position will improve. But you should avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from your family members. But avoid arguments with family members. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. You may be getting important message from abroad. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 1st and 2nd.



FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED FRIEND—A GREAT

It was with great shock and profound sorrow that we, the Soviet people, learnt the passing away of one of India's illustrious sons, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the President of the Republic of India. Words cannot echo the heartfelt sorrow of the Soviet people at receiving this tragic news of his death.

President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was known in the Soviet Union as a true friend of the Soviet people and a champion of strengthening Soviet-Indian friendship, and cooperation. Their grief was expressed in the condelence message of the Soviet leaders. As you all know, a Soviet government delegation headed by the Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, also had visited Delhi to attend the funeral of the late President of India.

* * *

COST OF LIVING SURVEY

A survey of the cost of living of 18 European cities by a Brussels information advisory firm showed that 10 of them are more expensive than Moscow and seven less. The most expensive city, Oslo, has a cost of living index 40 points higher than that of Moscow while the cheapest, Lisbon, was 21 points lower. This shows clearly that the living expenses in Moscow are much below the average level, as per the survey.

* * *

STONE FROM THE CHARA

The Fersman Mineralogical in Moscow (a branch of the Academy of Sciences) is showing samples of a very attractive new industrial stone. It is called charoite, after the swift and chilly River Chara on whose steep banks it was discovered, in the Siberian taiga near where the new Baikal-Amur Railway is being laid.

Actually it was found in 1973, but at that time was mistakenly thought to be the same as a much commoner stone found in the Kola Peninsula.

Charoite is a sodium-calcium compound forming an easily worked, handsome stone likely to be in great demand for ornaments.

At the ninth Moscow Film Festival the makers of the film Dersu Uzala received their first prize in the form of a charoite trophy.

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deducting the cost of inputs including the promised much higher wages, it is elementary that the prices of foodstuffs have to go up sharply. What happens then to the pledge to keep prices of such essentials down? And what about productivity on which rests industry's ability to survive and grow? If handlooms are to be the sole providers of cloth to the people and the mills are to be closed down, who provides employment for those lakhs of mill hands thrown out of job? Many more such impractical and contradictory ingredients of this document can be cited.

Apart from the Janata Party's manifesto being a breezily fabricated one, not only is its economic programme not workable but i s overall approach is not calculated to keep the party together after the elections. The record of these parties under Samyuktha Vidayak Dal governments in some States for a time further confirms that, while in office, each party tends only to pursue i s separate path primarily to strengthen its own party interest and so ceases to stay with the others. It is necessary for every voter to see these facts in their true perspective to realise why the Janata Party and its allies, however eager and eloquent in their plea for his or her support, are not the set of people in whose hands the government of this country can be safely placed. The would-be party has to be seen by the people as a body that can survive after the elections and evolve itself around an acceptable programme and commitment. There are of course many well-tried leaders among its constituents but they have to sink their egos and separate ambitions and bring about a well-knit national party before they can expect either to play the role of a purposeful Opposition in Parliament or to inherit power from the Congress. And that is a tall order indeed at present.

The Congress has of course the advantage of linking its poll promises to past performance which is considerable and has acquired a welcome new tempo during the months of the Emergency. While the good record of its achievements in the economic sphere and the all-round improvement in foreign relations are there to see, the Congress has also committed quite a few mistakes. But in economic matters, they are honest errors of judgment, being constantly rectified. The new discipline in national life—in industry, schools and colleges—and the routing of the anti-social elements, the smugglers, the black money racketeers are notable gains that cannot be minimised by even those unalterably opposed to the Congress. No wonder many foreign critics of the Congress Government under Mrs. Gandhi, who came to scoff and criticise, could not but applaud the significant gains scored in the fight against inflation, growth in industrial production and so on. There is of course much still to be done to promote agricultural and industrial growth and create more jobs. The question the voters have t ask themselves is: are these likely to be done by continuity of policy and action under a strong and ably led government, or by a weak and mutually quarrelsome set-up with a patch-work programme?

A big charge against Mrs. Gandhi's Government is that it is one of dictatorship and authoritarianism. She has already answered it by pointing to the elections she has voluntarily ordered ahead of the extended time. Dictators don't go to the people for a renewal of their mandate, e pecially when they are sitting firmly in the seat of power. The mass arrests and the erosion of civil liberties in the wake of the Emergency obviously constitute a feature of political life that none can be happ about, including those who authorised them. But was not the genesis of this sad state of affairs provided by the threat of chaos and anarchy posed by Mr. J.P. Narayan and the Janata constituents, first in Gujarat, then in Bihar and later gravitating to the Capital itself? Those who flouted the people's verdict by seeking to coerce through violence and intimidation the elected legislators and even the Prime Minister to resign surely make strange champions of parliamentary democracy. "In times of anarcay", said Mirabeau, "one may seem a despot in order to be a saviour". The Emergency and the resultant suspension of freedoms have to be seen al ng with what provoked it and what the common people and the country as a whole have gained from it. The conditions now ensured for the elections, like the virtual suspension of the Emergency, appear free and fair enough for them to go on and produce results. Anyway, in a fit of anger, even if justified, against some of the wrongs of the Emergency, can we afford to throw the baby out with the bath water? The people must not, in their own vital long-term interest, lose sight of the main issue, namely electing a strong, stable—and even more important, competent—government to safeguard the country and not allow themselves to be clouded and confused by less relevant arguments or sheer propaganda.

—Editorial in "The Hindu"

Issue of Tickets: P.M.'s Role

EVEN in the selection of candidates, the Prime Minister refused to intervene in spite of the requests of some Chief Ministers and PCC chiefs.

Two interesting instances are mentioned in the Economic Times, Bombay.

The Central Election Committee of the Congress was reported to have decided on February 15 to renominate Mrs. Mukul Banerji for a New Delhi seat She was called to the P.M.'s house and Smt. Indira Gandhi offered her blessings and also every support in the fight against Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. Top leaders also congratulated her and she along with her husband, a former permanent Secretary of the AICC office, even called on the Chief Electoral Officer on the next day. But by the after noon, Mrs. Banerji was informed by the AICC office that the ticket was being given to some one else.

In another case, some CEC members strongly opposed an aspirant on the ground that he had used abusive language against the Prime Minister. Some of his statements were even read out. Mrs. Gandhi however took everyone by surprise by stating that she would not hold this against the individual, since many others had also hurled abuses at her. What was important, according to her, was whether the person was able and could be depended upon to serve the Congress and the country.

The ticket was eventually given to him.

From page 1

victed or proved guilty. That was the essence of democracy.

The Janata Party leader promised that if his party returned to power, it would restore the spinning wheel on the Kamaraj memorial.

He said the memorial was built by the DMK Government, but by the time it could be completed, the Ministry was dismissed. Atop the structure, there was a big spinning wheel—the symbol not only of the nation's fight for freedom but also what the Swaraj Government would do for the masses. Though the DMK did not believe in spinning wheel, it had put it on top of the memorial. But 24 hours before Smt. Indira Gandhi came to open it the spinning wheel was removed.

He promised: "If at the end of three years, we do not proceed properly on the promised path, we shall not inflict ourselves on you and we certainly vacate "

And his assurance on Hindi: "It is said that I want to force Hindi on you. In fact I do not want to force not only Hindi, but anything on you. Only the ruling party is used to do everything by force and violence. The Janata Party pledges to see that no force is used on peace-loving people."

The Congress was a "one person's party and the moment the person is not there, the party will be no more."

The Janata Party had alliance with regional parties like the DMK and Akali Dal to prevent fighting against each other when they were all for a common purpose.

Speaking at Hyderabad, Mr. Morarji Desai said the Janata Party had not "thrown away the right to property just like that!" What it had said was that the right to property should not be one of the fundamental rights, it should be a legal right and should be enforceable in a court of law and the order putting it in the Ninth Schedule should go.

Reiterating that he was against smaller states, Mr. Desai pointed out that though Kerala was a land of intelligent people, it had not thrown up a national leader. "The bigness of a state adds to the personality of the leader. The leader of a small state may be more intelligent, but the leader of a big state naturally dominates."

Cousins And Friends In The Fray

The coming Lok Sabha elections while bringing together several opposition parties under one symbol and one flag, will also witness contests between close relatives and thick friends.

In Gujarat two such contests are reported.

The Congress candidate of the Broach constituency, Mr. Ahmed M. Patel will have as his rival his cousin, Mr. Suleman Uniya, the Janata Party nominee.

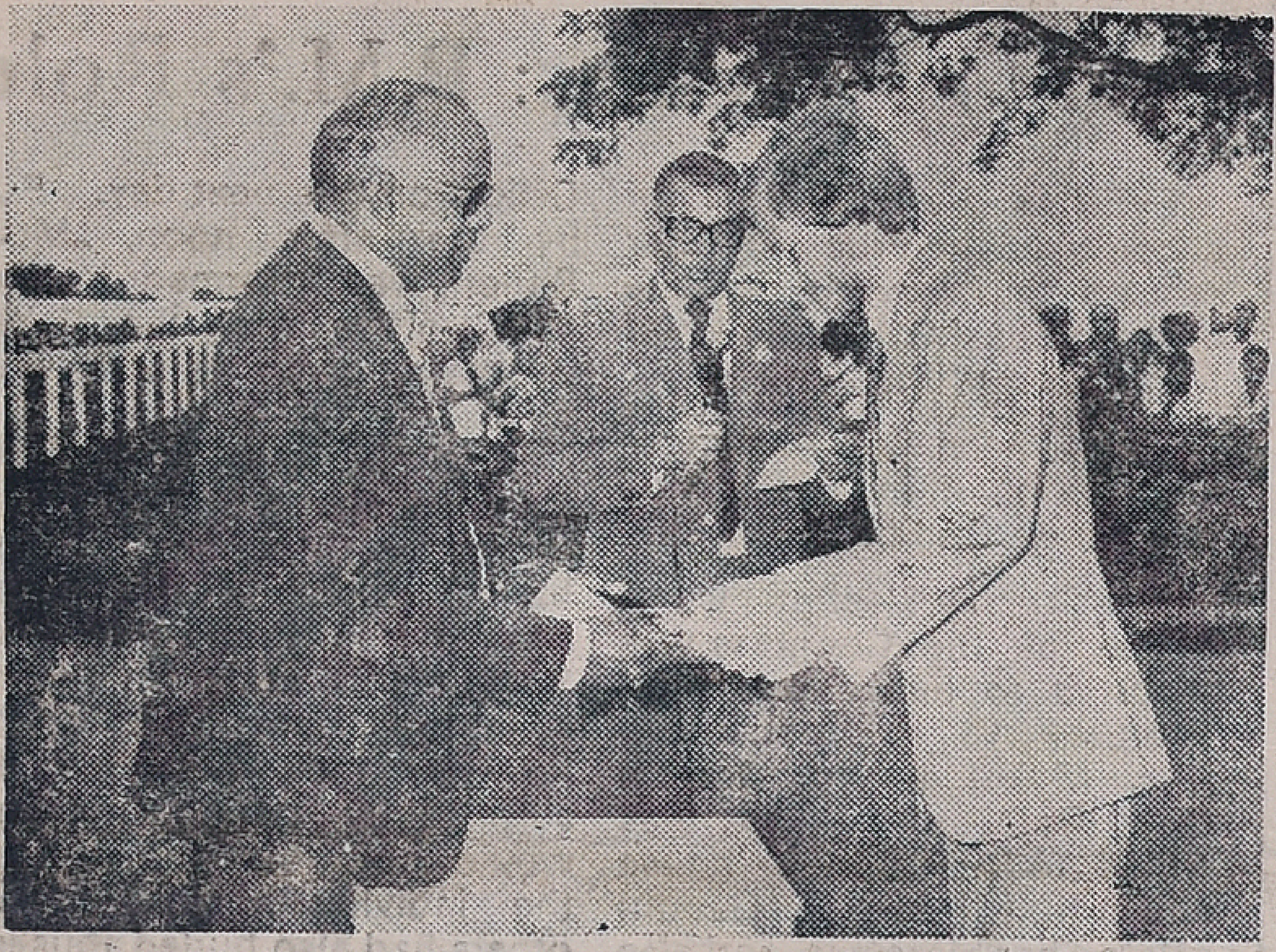
An interesting feature is that when the Congress chose Mr. Ahmed, he sought the blessings of his cousin, Mr. Uniya. Both live in the same house.

Mr. Uniya, a teacher, commands respect in Surat and Broach districts and Mr. Ahmed is the chairman of the Ankaleshwar Taluk Panchayat.

Two old friends are fighting for the Junagadh seat.

The Congress candidate, Mr. Ratubhai Adani, and his Janata rival, Mr. Narendra Nathwani are thick friends from the pre independence days. They together waged the battle against the late Nawab Mahobbatkhanji who wanted to join Pakistan.

Mr. Nathwani, who was elected to the Lok Sabha in the first two general elections left politics to set up legal practice. He became Judge in the Bombay High Court. Now he is back again in politics.



Mr. David Thompson receiving the C. S. Loganathan Memorial Trophy from Mr. M. A. M. Ramaswamy, on behalf of the owner of River Spray.

Young Trainer With Great Future

By D. VENKATESAN

Apart from luck, the instinct to understand and evaluate horse flesh, plays a dominant role in the success or failure of a professional trainer of race horses.

In this respect, young, handsome and hard-working David Thompson, the son of veteran Alford G Thompson, possesses all the essential ingredients to carve for himself and his valued patrons, excellent records in the coming years.

At 21, David Thompson is perhaps the youngest professional trainer in the country today with a string of 40 formidable animals under his care. It is quite on the cards that within a year or two this young and enthusiastic trainer will succeed in reaching the top bracket among the champion trainers in South India. An indication of this is evident from the fact that within a year of his having obtained his training licence, he has been able to send out as many as 55 winners, a creditable record by any standards.

"The love for horses is what made me to take to trainership," he told me when I met him recently. He sets great store by the encouragement and help given by his father, Mr. A.G. Thompson, who is known as a shrewd professional for clinching prestigious stake honours for his owners. There is no doubt that his son too will follow in the foot treps of his mentor.

With the confidence placed on David's young shoulders, several owners have won laurels for themselves. To mention only a few, Bapu's Choice and River Spray have carried everything before them. Mr. P.M. Bokdawalla's prized possession, Bapu's Choice which started from Class A has gone up to Class III thanks to the painstaking manner in which young David had prepared him for the fray.

The same owner's River Spray won the Tamil Nadu Gold Cup and the C.S. Loganathan Memorial Trophy during the current Madras racing season thus fetching nourishing rewards for the connections. The fascile manner of the running of River Spray promises more victories for this middle-distance runner.

David places sound judgment in sending out his charges for competing in the remunerative events and his patrons are always satisfied that the animals entrusted in his care exhibit the pink of condition in the stables.

Among the youngsters given in his care, both Ivanjica and Guido have shaped very well so early in their career and David hopes to turn them into big money spinners in the future.

Young David started his training career with only seven animals entrusted to him, but with his creditworthy records at the last Madras season, at Bangalore and Hyderabad, he now has a string of 40 animals.

"My ambition is to make a mark in the Classes and I hope to achieve a few victories in the coming seasons at the various racing centres."

There are seven two-year olds which are under his training at present and he hopes that they would turn out well for their maiden races.

With the passing of the years the enthusiastic racing public of this centre and elsewhere can hope to see better things emerge from David Thompson's stable to add colour and enjoyment to this exciting sport called racing.

FILM REVIEW

Adalat : Amitabh Excels

The most striking feature of A.K. Movies' ADALAT in colour is the excellent acting by Amitabh Bachchan.

The buoyant, innocent rustic youth Dharma, mumbling 'Ram Ram' always, lands up in jail by the manouvering of a group of unscrupulous fleet owners. He comes out of prison full of vengeance. Later he turns out to be a top class smuggler. The three stages of Dharma's life—the youth bubbling with vigour and joy, the man with vengeance to take revenge and a smuggler silently suffering in his heart for all the misdeeds he has done—have been well brought out by Amitabh.

Waheeda Rehman as his dutiful wife is equal to the task. Heena Kausar as Dharma's sister who has a tragic end is appealing. Neetu Sigh has no part to play.

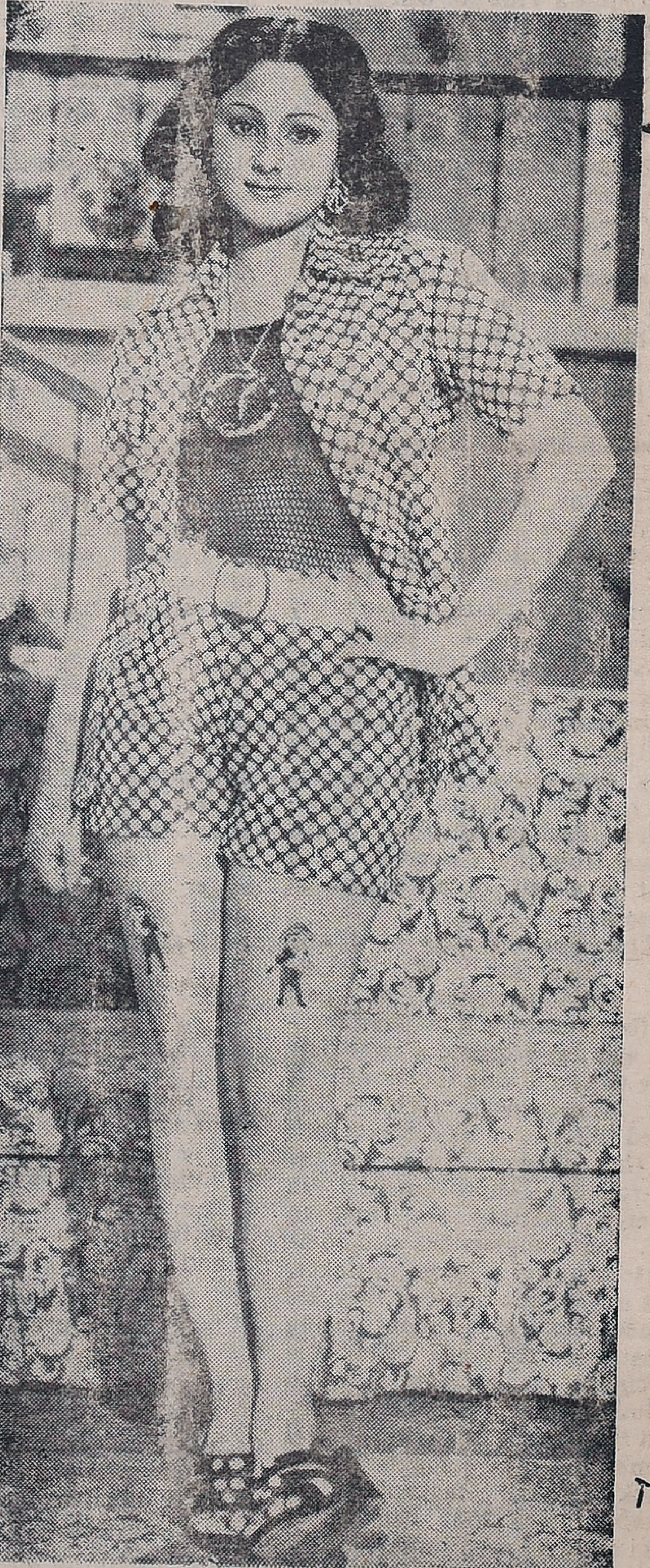
Released by Preet Pictures, it is now on show at Star, Nataraj and Tamil Nad in the city.

LETTER-WRITING

"They're very much in love with each other."

"Really?"

"Yes. When she's away she writes letters to him whether she needs money or not."



Jayasudha. She is missing in Tamil films. She is reported to be very busy in Telugu field. She is also said to be interested in staging a come back in Tamil films. Will she ?

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